Urban Investigations: A manifesto for the 21st century metropolis

Architecture can still intervene in the urban fabric, even in a limited way and as an intervention it should guarantee or orient itself towards a space of public appearance. – Kenneth Frampton

This seminar will examine public space and its various programs through quotidian, paradoxical, and hypothetical situations while aiming to define its role in our contemporary urban environment. With a primary focus on New York City, students will investigate everything from street furniture to hybrid infrastructures via historical analysis, case studies, and envisioned futures. Using fictional narratives, impromptu tactics, and analytical mappings students will survey awkward, outdated, and ephemeral urban conditions to identify opportunities and new ways to create value. Operating through a series of lectures, discussions, texts, and design exercises; our final outcome will be a comprehensive document illustrating possible ways public space will shape the future of cities.

Partial Reading List:
Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan by Rem Koolhaas
Robert Moses and the Modern City: The Transformation of New York by Hilary Ballon
The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs
Landscape Urbanism and its Discontents: Dissimulating the Sustainable City by Andres Duany
I Want to Be Metropolitan: Boston Case Study by Praud
NYC Active Design Guidelines by NYC Departments of Planning, Design & Construction, Transportation
Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory and Urban Design by Rodolphe El-Khoury & Edward Robbins
A Country of Cities: A Manifesto for an Urban America by Vishaan Chakrabarti
Pet Architecture Guide Book by Atelier Bow-Wow
49 Cities by Work AC